

THE OLD HOME TOWN.

When O. K. Davis of New York City slipped into the old home town, Wahoo, Neb., after an absence of 33 years, it is only natural that he should have met with sad disappointments and some disillusionments. Great changes occur in the span of a single generation, and the changes are as great in men as in towns and cities.

Men who are active in life, as Mr. Davis has been, seldom take into account the changes that are taking place in themselves. They are far more apt to note changes in others than they are in themselves, and when the New Yorker returned to the home of his boyhood he failed to take into consideration the changes that had taken place in his own life.

Of course the creek and the old swimming hole had dwindled to his mature mind. They were the same, of course, but he had become accustomed to an enlarged view of life, hence the dwindling of the familiar scenes of his boyhood. That Mr. Davis, is one of the tragedies of advancing age. New friends are not made as easily after middle life is passed as they were in the youthful days when close companionships were not adulterated by business worries and business suspicions. The boys and girls you left in the old home town have, like you, grown old. Just as you have grown up and expanded in a business way, so has Wahoo grown and expanded and become far more than the straggling village of your boyhood.

And why shouldn't you miss the old familiar faces? Did you imagine for a moment that while you were growing older, acquiring wrinkles and graying hair, that they were going to remain young? Your greatest mistake, Mr. Davis, was in cutting loose from the old home town and the associates of your youth, for 33 long years. You would have felt better, and been better, had you made yearly pilgrimages back to the old scenes and made it a point to keep in touch with those who were your companions in those long dead days when youthful impulses stirred the blood and you looked out upon the world which you were then determined to conquer.

Frankly, Mr. Davis, we are glad that you were disappointed. It was a fitting punishment for your failure to keep in closer touch with the old home and its people; in closer touch with those who remained at home to carry on, while you were out in the big world. You owed something to the old home that you failed to pay, and it resented it by forgetting you and presenting you with a bitter disappointment when you yielded to a long delayed impulse and went back more out of curiosity than anything else.

Your failure to keep in touch with the old home town, Mr. Davis, has cost you something that money can not buy, something that can not be recompensed by material rewards won from the business world. It is to be hoped that you have learned the lesson, and learned it so vividly that you will make it a point to visit the old home at least once a year, and while doing so try to again get in touch with it and its splendid people.

TAXES AND THE TALKERS.
A definition of taxes that is frequently quoted is that a tax is a portion of produced wealth impounded for public use. If this be true, and who will dispute it?—then everybody is directly or indirectly a taxpayer. Therefore everybody is concerned in taxation.

Admitting these truisms, we come to consideration of the democratic objections to the Mellon plan for reduction of the tax levied by the federal government. Representative Garner from Texas, whose record of objecting to anything proposed by a republican, and most of what is brought forth by democrats outside of Texas, says that the Mellon plan is entirely inadequate, because it does not help a sufficient number of the people. If, he says, the entire surtax were taken from incomes now subject to it, only 525,000 persons would be benefited, when, if all tax on incomes of \$5,000 or less were remitted more than 6,136,000 taxpayers would enjoy the relief.

What Mr. Garner overlooks is the fact that the Mellon plan does exactly what he says it should do—it lowers the tax on every income, and especially on those that are earned.

Furnifold McLendel Simmons, senator from North Carolina, and the chairman of the senate finance committee in 1917, when the first war revenue bill was framed, brings out something of the same sort of objection voiced by Representative Garner. This, then, may be assumed to be the angle from which the democrats will attack any sort of revenue measure the republicans bring in.

Revenue, however, must be had to carry on the government, and the tax-shed to be levied on all alike. In the case of income tax, it is not especially a levy on wealth, nor is it true that wealth generally escapes taxation. What has happened is that the law, as originally framed by the democrats and enacted under stress of war needs, did not rest equally on all, and did permit a large proportion of wealth to escape, by seeking investment in tax-free securities.

What the president and the secretary of treasury ask is that a new law be framed, by which the end sought may be more nearly accomplished, and especially that money now going into hiding every day through the purchase of tax-exempt securities be brought out into the open and made to bear its share of the cost of the general government.

Finally, it remains true that all who produce contribute to the revenue of the government, for only out of created wealth is the payment of anything, wages, profits, rent or taxes, possible.

The Pittsburgh woman who insists that every married woman should have one night a week to go where she pleases, must be figuring on establishing the eight-day week.

Mr. Bryan says the democratic candidate for president must be dry and progressive. What, not a word about Darwinism?

There also seems to be some trouble about making the 12-mile limit work to landward.

BUG UNDER THE FARLEY CHIP.

The rejection by the senate committee of the name of Edward Farley of Chicago as chairman of the United States Shipping board is likely to bring out very clearly the element of politics in the affairs of the board. President Coolidge at once withdrew the names of Frederick I. Thompson of Alabama and Bert E. Haney of Oregon, both democrats and members of the board. This presages an entirely new board.

The objection to Farley was that he comes from the Great Lakes region, which has another member on the board, in the person of T. V. O'Connor of Cleveland. Behind this probably will be found something of even more importance to the people. The United States of America is the biggest ship owner in the world just now. A marvelous fleet of commerce carriers is floating, some in service, some gathering rust and barnacles, but all belonging to Uncle Sam. His problem is to get the greatest possible service to the world out of these vessels.

Opposed to him is a rather impressive array of foreign shipping, headed by the British mercantile marine, all unwilling to allow the vessels of the American government to continue on the water except as subject to foreign domination. The Shipping board has tried to dispose of the government-owned vessels, but for many reasons the effort has been in vain. Buyers are not forthcoming, because private concerns are interested in forestalling the establishment of an American merchant marine.

Charges have been made in congress of the effect of sinister combines of foreign capital against the United States in this matter, and it is doubtless true that some of the trouble that has been experienced may be traced to the great shipping concerns of England, France, Japan, Holland, and other countries, friendly enough in other matters, but intensely interested in defeating any move to re-establish a merchant marine for America. They will find, though, that the people of the United States are fairly well determined to get some good from the vessels they paid so much to build.

President Coolidge said in his address to the congress:

"The entire well being of our country is dependent upon transportation by sea and land. Our government during the war acquired a large merchant fleet which should be transferred as soon as possible to private ownership and operation under conditions which secure two results: First and of prime importance, adequate means for national defense; second, adequate service to American commerce. Until shipping conditions are such that our fleet can be disposed of advantageously under these conditions, it will be operated as economically as possible under such plans as may from time to time be devised by the Shipping board. We must have a merchant marine that meets these requirements, and we shall have to pay the cost of its service."

No indication of any purpose to abandon the commerce of this country to foreign carriers is noted in the president's attitude. The technical and seeming captious objection to the retention of Farley as head of the board may lead to some pertinent disclosures, but whether it does or not, the great enterprise of restoring the American flag to the seas of the world is not to be abandoned. Our country must not again reach the stage it had attained in 1914, when it was absolutely dependent upon foreign shipping for its chance to send goods abroad.

WARNING FROM A PORT OF ENTRY.

One of the many little tragedies in connection with our immigration laws has just been brought up at Norfolk, Va. Joseph Pfer was deported from that port on an Italian steamer on Wednesday. His story is one that emphasizes what so often has been preached by every one who has said anything in connection with the subject.

Pfer's parents came to America when he was two years old. His father lived here many years, but neglected to become a citizen. His son grew up, and was 18 years old when his father died. A little over two years ago he went with his mother to Hungary, their native land, for a visit. Being of military age and a Hungarian, the Austrian authorities came down on him for military service. He was refused a passport, but after remaining two years in Hungary, he made his escape, and then sought re-entry to the land where he grew up, had received his education, and with whose customs he was familiar.

No need to inquire into the reasons for the neglect of his father, from which the young man suffered. The elder Pfer did not become a citizen, although he lived under and enjoyed the conditions of one for many years. His negligence now has the effect of excluding the boy, who is excluded as an alien unlawfully seeking admission to this country.

The incident holds clearly the lesson that those of foreign birth who have not already done so and who wish to become citizens of the United States should proceed without delay to comply with the law. It is possible that the time will come when those who do not become citizens and assume the responsibilities as well as the privileges will be asked to withdraw. President Coolidge expresses a growing sentiment in his message, in these words: "Those who do not want to become partakers of the American spirit ought not to settle in America."

It appears the deficit was not in the road fund, but there certainly is a considerable deficit in the governor's campaign material for re-election.

If enacted into law will Capper's "truth in fabrics" bill guarantee only the fabrics, or will it include all that is contained therein?

Next in order will be the 1924 license plates.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

EACH FARMER FARMS AS IS HIS CHOICE.
Each farmer has his own ideas and fancies like the rest: It's up to him, he comprehends, to do the thing that's best.
And apt to bring the most for toil and precious money spent—
And thus he goes—as logic leads—to foster his intent.
But strange it seems to us who know the country from the train,
Why farmers have so many ways to till the boundless main,
And why their methods varied are until they seem unbound—
And frivolous—because we know that ground is only ground.

But there is science in the work the faithful farmers do,
And minds don't always choose one plan or have the selfsame view.
And there are prudent schemes and wise—as logic may imply—
A certain kind of management to fit a certain eye.
And as we vision our success and lead a changeless way,
And reach the peak of destiny some glad or solemn day—
The farmers trudge along the trail and seek the common prize,
Aware that there are many ways to prosper and to rise.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to contribute freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Santa Claus to the Discard.
Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Some few days ago there appeared an editorial in which the writer went to great length to attempt to prove that a certain teacher in the public schools did wrong in telling her pupils that there was no "Santa Claus." This aroused the ire of the editorial writer in question, who lost control of his typewriter in giving vent to his feelings. More interesting among other things, that "such a person was unfit to instruct the children."

It is very apparent that the writer of such a vicious article is a routine follower of tradition; a lover of the ancient because it is hoary-headed; that while he lives in a practical age, he attempts to persuade himself that illusions are facts. The truth, to be accepted blindly, or the alternative will be burning at the stake, or at least a few turns of the rack!

The aforementioned teacher was right, absolutely right. She understands, perhaps better than many teachers do, that she is supposed to instruct her pupils, cultivate their minds, make them self-reliant, and enable them to think for themselves. She is placed to teach the truth, not myths and fables. In the public schools of the United States there is no room for fakery; the atmosphere should be one of truth and positive knowledge, not make-believe.

There is too much fable taught as it is, for many of the teachers are more or less controlled by certain religious prejudices. They endeavor to perpetuate these by impressing them upon the plastic minds of the children committed to their care. One young woman teacher told a child of the undersigned that there was a "Santa Claus" and when the little boy answered that there was nothing but a "make-believe Santa Claus," she became almost as violent as the writer of The Bee's editorial, and denounced the child as a "pagan" and "infidel," and threatened to report the child's parents to the police.

Right-thinking parents do not want their children taught myths and legends, but as a matter of fact, such and not as truth which should be accepted and blindly obeyed. If we wish them taught superstition and fable there are places where that is the stock in trade. But it is quite out of place in the public schools, and I, as a taxpayer, will not tolerate such things in the institution which is supposed to be, and should be, free from such contamination.

This question has provoked much discussion among numbers of thinking people, and we are greatly pleased to see Rev. Mr. Baltzy also take a decided stand for the truth. Of course, that is what the ministers of the gospel are for, but some of them do not quite appreciate that fact, as yet.

I suppose, along with his labored efforts to line up everybody in belief of the fact that the Santa Claus is merely serve to place a bridge on the minds of the impressionable youth, the editorial writer will next serve us a "heresy dish" about the wonderful efficacy of the "sacred" of the great over a doorway, to bring good luck.

Said one little boy to another: "There is a Santa Claus, because I seen him." "Is that so," queried the other little fellow, "then how did you see him and what did he do?" "Well, I wanted to see Santa, so I did not go to sleep, and I seen him fill my stockings." "Then what did he do?" in open-eyed astonishment, the other most breathlessly asked the little boy. "Then he got in bed with mama!" Of course, this is proof positive, for they say "he is a merry old soul!"

Wheat Growers and the Railroad.
Kinsey, Mont.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I live in eastern Montana, 30 miles north of Miles City, and a little better than 600 miles west of Minneapolis. A neighbor and I raised a little surplus wheat this year.

In ordering a car to ship this to Minneapolis, over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, I asked the freight agent at Miles City to send a 40,000-pound capacity car to our nearest station.

He said he did not have a car of that size on hand, and if he did not get one he would send a "60,000 capacity car" at the railroad's convenience. This is noted on the freight bill, and they would only charge on the actual weight of the wheat. We consigned the wheat to the McCaull-Dinsmore company. It graded No. 1 hard northern and brought \$1.27 a bushel, 10 percent higher than any other wheat on the market that day.

So far, so good, but when we got our bills we found that the railroad had not only charged for the 60,000 car, but had added the lesser amount of wheat to the full amount and called it 60,000 pounds of wheat. I wrote the commission house about this and they looked it up and wrote me that the railroad company stated that its rules do not require them to furnish 40,000-pound cars, thereby compelling me with much less than 1,000 bushels to pay for 60,000. When we shipped our wheat it was bringing 5 cents less in Miles City. In the mean time I had talked to the freight agent at Miles City and he said of course the railroad company would refund the difference, about \$54, and told the agent at our station to send the bills in to the company. Nothing doing. Said the agent did not know his conditions, and the wheat farmer is so mad and disgusted that he is "inarticulate," as one of our writers said. CEDRIC T. DEXTER.

Against Stricter Divorce Laws.
Missouri Valley, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your editorial comment on the divorce question as it is confronting the solons of Iowa, is timely and good. I cannot see where the tightening up of the divorce laws would do a bit of good. Human nature is human nature, and you can't change it an iota if you write laws on a 36-inch strip of paper that would reach to the moon and back. If legislators would do a little less running off at the mouth and substitute silence and some honest good thinking we'd all be better off.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

The Wayne Herald expresses the opinion that Hi Johnson's Chicago speech would have been a little more demagogic if he had pledged himself to regulate the weather.

A Hastings girl said she "really liked to attend dances in Harvard, but she didn't like to associate with Hicks," and Ole Buck of the Harvard Courier seems to have taken the remark personal.

The Sterling Sun is raising objections because a new Burlington Time card will permit Sterling people to connect with Omaha trains at Lincoln and make the round trip in a day.

Noting that Walt Mason is about to engage in the banking business, Adam Breede of the Hastings Democrat declares that "from post to banker" is some jump. O, not so much. And it seldom avails the poet when he does jump to the banker.

Dan Webster of the St. Paul Phoenix, waiting until the middle of winter before saying it, claims to be the champion newspaper golfer of Nebraska. About next July we may expect Dan to lay claim to being the champion snow shoveler.

Pondering on the power of the press, the Orleans Chronicle is reminded that right now the elder press also has its share of power.

The pessimistic John Sweet of the Nebraska City Press fears that the senator from Washington, C. C. Dill, will find himself in a pickle when he settles down in Washington.

Noting that the ministers of Lincoln are talking about importing Billy Sunday to get the spirit to working, the Campbell Citizen rises to inquire if the situation is as bad as all that.

"You can lead a young man to the university, but you can't make him think," remarks the Grand Island Independent.

Noting the claim that "Massachusetts made a Colidge," the Nebraska City Press chortles that "Nebraska has made more than one Boner Law."

"This harum-scarum birds," remarks the York News-Times, referring to the speed maniacs, "ought to be caged and their cars taken away from them."

North Platte is soon to have a new weekly paper, devoted to the promotion of the farmer-labor movement.

When length of editorial service in one town and continuously on one paper is being considered, Fletcher N. Marvin of the Beaver City Times-Tribune wants to be reckoned with. He has been in Beaver City on the one newspaper for 35 years and doesn't look much older than that, in fact's younger.

The curiosity of John Sweet of the Nebraska City Press is at fever heat, and, in Nebraska City, the Omaha Bee is giving him the name of one of the two Nebraska City women who came to Omaha to purchase cigars that matched their gowns. We didn't even know until now that John smoked cigars.

Court which is the other end of the affair.

I do not know anything about divorce, but I happened to marry the best woman in the world about 15 years ago and am still contented in the harness, but I have seen enough other shipwrecked marriages to know that the best woman in the world would have amounted to a tinker's dam. They will not any other place either. Just make business for the lawyers, that's all.

I was present at a session of a legislature some time ago. There was a matter up, and I never heard so much foolish talk between men in my life. I do not claim to know much above what is in the rain, but I am a devout worshiper at the altar of practicality and common sense. Let's keep our hands off the divorce business, or fiddle it from the right end. I. T. DUZZENMATTER.

A New Way to Stop War.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In order to place the thought of world peace in the minds of the public, would it not be worth while to suggest that all business offices writing letters use the formal closing of their letters to read "Yours for World Peace"? In that way, every day throughout this nation, and wherever a letter arrives or is written there will be a constant reminder to all people the desire for world peace. Also, letters reaching foreign countries might influence the readers there to be stirred into action for the purpose intended.

It would tend to get the people in the frame of mind to talk for and work towards world peace. At this season of the year it would be especially appropriate, due to the longing for peace and good will in the hearts of mankind.

Recently I have instituted this feature at the conclusion of all letters dictated at my office. A number of these communications have already been transmitted to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and also to other countries of the United States. Yours for World Peace.

OTTO LOUIS BREMERS.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

Christmas time, the happiest of the year,
It fills us with laughter, hope and cheer,
It awakens a spirit of kindness to all,
Our innermost feelings, it seems to enthrall.
The dying flame of friendship is oft rekindled,
By remembrance, kind thoughts are mingled,
With little tokens our love we thus express,
For some one in need, some one in distress,
We sacrifice for those we hold most dear,
'Tis made without falter, sigh or tear,
Christmas time, let's shout and sing,
The birth of our Savior, Lord and King.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for November, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 73,950 Sunday 79,265

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in mailing. Includes news and advertising sales or free circulation of any kind.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of December, 1923.
W. H. QUINN, Notary Public

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Perhaps Work Is Right.

From the Detroit News.

For four centuries the white man has been administering civilization to his red brother by means of the rifle, the bottle, the treaty and other ennobling implements. Now, with title to almost all the land properly registered in the land offices, comes the proposal of Secretary Work that the federal government remove its paternal hand from the Indian and permit the latter to work out his own destiny as an ordinary citizen in the state and community in which he dwells.

The secretary's suggestion comes with shocking suddenness. Four hundred years seems hardly long enough to teach the poor Indian how to conduct himself as an ordinary citizen. True, there has been something resembling chaos in connection with the relationships between the government and the Indians. Some Indians were granted citizenship, and some were offered citizenship, and over others government exercised a permanent guardianship which neither age nor discretion could lessen. The government has never been slow to recognize the merits of the red men. For instance, over a century ago, the Creeks, Cherokees, Seminoles, Chickasaws and Choctaws were nicknamed the Five Civilized Tribes when they acceded more or less reluctantly to the suggestion that they surrender their rich southern lands to the whites and go west. The Pilgrims, on the other hand, have remained unregenerate savages. As recently as a few months ago, Old Posey led a handful of his followers on the war-path rather than permit the tribal hunting grounds to be turned into a pasture for civilized sheep.

Secretary Work would end the anomalous situation of the Indians. It seems that the federal government spent \$42,072,114.45 in Indian work last year, and the secretary believes it high time to let the Indians take care of themselves. His decision to give up civilizing the red men will be viewed with rank heresy. But in view of the high cost of imposing civilization and the fact that the red men have hardly any further lands to surrender, perhaps he is right after all.

The Squire's Offer for Hornsby.

From the Brooklyn Citizen.

The offer of Squire Ebbets, on behalf of the Brooklyn baseball club, of \$275,000 for Rogers Hornsby, the great second baseman of the St. Louis National League team, will cause amusement among the skeptics. It is well enough for Colonel Ruppert of the Yankees and Mr. McGraw of the Giants to offer fabulous

sums for star players and their offers are treated seriously, but Ebbets and the McGraws are suspected of "bluffing" when they offer \$275,000 for Hornsby.

Why this incredulity in their case is hard to explain. The Brooklyn baseball club has made a great deal of money in recent years. It owns one of the most valuable ball parks in the country and, financially speaking, is on "easy street." The club is well able to pay this sum for Mr. Hornsby and Mr. Ebbets has been too long in the game not to know what he is doing. Brooklyn is good baseball territory and the acquisition of Hornsby would prove a big winner as the Yankees' acquisition of Ruth, for Hornsby in every way is the equal of Ruth.

On the road, the Brooklyn team, if it included Hornsby, would draw almost as great crowds as the Yankees with Ruth. But whether the offer is accepted or not, Mr. McGraw knows that he is not alone in the running when it comes to pulling off a big "deal" in baseball. And he thinks that the Squire was thinking of retiring and living quietly in his Florida winter home! Age cannot withdraw nor fitness state his infinite variety. Phoenix-like, he rises superior to adversity, and none of the modern baseball magnates can show their heels to him when it comes to pulling off a sensational "deal."

Don't Buy Furniture From "Bootleggers."
From Furniture Age.

In the last year a number of people have been victimized by so-called furniture wholesalers who lead the unsuspecting to believe that they can purchase furniture at a saving by patronizing them instead of legitimate stores. Many complaints have been received by this magazine that higher prices were paid to this class of "bootleggers" than to established merchants and that the merchandise was of a cheap quality and when the customer sought an adjustment the "bootleggers" had gone out of business or changed firm names so as to escape the responsibility.

Even when the "bootlegger" was still in business he refused to make good on the grounds that he did not guarantee the merchandise. All legitimate furniture stores are operated on the principle that the customer is always right and are willing at all times to meet any reasonable demand for adjustment or make repairs if some piece is damaged in delivery. But not so the "fake wholesaler."

He does not expect to remain in business long, so he is only after the immediate profit, while the established merchant must make friends of his customers if he is to succeed. Even though one could save 5 to 10 per cent by buying from "bootleggers," this saving would not compensate for the service the established merchant gives before, during and after a sale has been made. He stands back of his goods and guarantees satisfaction.

Asia and the Lakes.
From the Chicago News.

The report of the port of San Francisco, indicating that out of a total export trade of \$105,000,000 the Asiatic trade amounted to \$7,000,000 as against \$48,000,000 to Europe, ought to provide midwestern industries with food for thought. This report shows growing Pacific commerce, and it

Abe Martin



Th' president's message t' congress not only made a big hit, but it showed he wuzn' a demagogue or he'd urged immediate relief fer th' farmer. We kin cajole a woman, but we can't drive her t' nothin' but desperation.

(Copyright, 1923.)

means that this commerce already is clamoring for production that cannot be met by the Pacific coast. In time the coast will develop its water powers and will erect factories; just now it relies chiefly on its foodstuffs, cotton and petroleum products. Meanwhile, the midwestern manufacturer could find a vessel at a Great Lakes port and send it on its way to Asia, the midwest as well as the Pacific coast would profit by growing Asiatic consumption. The Great Lakes-Lawrence waterway thus holds up from new angles every day.

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JEWELER
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A Handy Place to Eat
Hotel Conant
16th and Hayes—Omaha
The Center of Convenience

NEBRIN
Is Safer and More Effective Than Aspirin
For Colds, Headaches, Pains

Money to Loan on Omaha Real Estate
The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
1614 HARVEY

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Ability, Permanence, Integrity—These are the three qualifications of the ideal Trustee.

The record of this bank for more than Half a Century—during which, each year, it has constantly increased its service to its customers and the community—is a guaranty of all three.

This institution will serve you as Trustee, will act as Guardian of Minors or Incompetents, will accept appointment as Executor of a Will or Administrator of an Estate.

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